



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, KE, US  
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO KENYATTA.

REF: STATE 166469

1. I READ PARA TWO REFTEL TO PRESIDENT KENYATTA AT STATE HOUSE NAKURU 1000 TODAY. ONLY THE TWO OF US WERE PRESENT. HE ASKED ME TO READ IT TWICE. KENYATTA WAS VISIBLY MOVED BY GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION SAYING, "I CANNOT FIND WORDS TO THANK HIM (SECRETARY KISSINGER)."

2. IN REPLY TO KENYATTA'S WONDERING HOW USG MIGHT HELP KENYA, I STATED MANNER AND MEANS WOULD DEPEND ON SITUATION. PRESSED TO SPECULATE, AND EMPHASIZING THAT VIEWS WERE ENTIRELY MY OWN AND NOT DEPARTMENT'S, I SAID U.S. COULD POSSIBLY POSITION SHIPS OFF KENYA SHORE WHICH WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS SUPPORT? OR COULD SPEAK ON KENYA'S BEHALF WITH OTHER NATIONS. REGARDING USE OF TROOPS -- WHICH "COOPERATE FULLY" OF SECRETARY'S MESSAGE MIGHT IMPLY, I HASTENED TO CAUTION THAT U.S. CONGRESS WOULD MOST LIKELY VIEW SUCH ACTION UNFAVORABLY, BUT THEN RE-EMPHASIZED THAT "COOPERATE FULLY" WAS, INDEED, THRUST OF MESSAGE.

3. I ASKED KENYATTA FOR HIS VIEWS ON PRESENT SITUATION. DID HE BELIEVE AMIN MIGHT BE SO ANNOYED AT KENYAN COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL THAT HE MIGHT ATTACK KENYA. "MAYBE," KENYATTA REPLIED, "IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE."

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4. OUT OF CONCERN THAT KENYATTA MIGHT NOT BE IN GOOD HEALTH OR CURRENTLY INFORMED ON SITUATION, I SAID TO HIM THAT IT WAS OUR BELIEF AS OBSERVERS THAT IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN IT MIGHT OCCUR QUITE SUDDENLY. I ASKED WHETHER I MIGHT BE HEARING FROM HIM DIRECTLY, OR PERHAPS THROUGH ONE OF HIS MINISTERS. I MENTIONED KOINANGE'S AND NJONJO'S NAMES. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD HANDLE THE MATTER AND WOULD REPLY IF NECESSARY TO SECRETARY KISSINGER THROUGH ME, HIMSELF.

5. KENYATTA REPEATED, ON PARTING, "I CANNOT FIND WORDS TO THANK HIM (SECRETARY KISSINGER)," AND ADDED, "IT IS THE TRUE FRIEND WHO COMES TO OUR HELP WHEN WE ARE IN NEED, THAT IS WHEN TRUE FRIENDS ARE KNOWN."

6. KENYATTA APPEARED WEAK BUT ALERT DURING MEETING. HIS EYES LOOKED SOMEWHAT GLAZED, PERHAPS FROM MEDICATION. HE ROSE WITH DIFFICULTY TO GREET ME. DESPITE KENYATTA'S RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION ABOUT FURTHER CONTACT (PARA 4 ABOVE), I HAVE DECIDED THAT KOINANGE AND/OR NJONJO SHOULD ALSO BE MADE AWARE OF SUBSTANCE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE AND MY MEETING WITH KENYATTA AND AM ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT THEM.  
MARSHALL

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